

**Testimony On Behalf Of The
Connecticut Regional Office of the
Anti-Defamation League**

**IN OPPOSITION TO
PORTIONS OF HB 5018
AN ACT MAKING ADJUSTMENTS TO STATE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2011**

February 11, 2010

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) was founded in 1913 with a mandate to fight the defamation of the Jewish people and secure justice and fair treatment for all. Today the ADL is one of the country's leading civil rights and human services organizations. The Connecticut Regional Office of ADL is based in Hamden and serves the entire state of Connecticut.

We submit this testimony today to express our opposition to the Governor's plan to eliminate the Connecticut Commission on Children, and in support of the maintenance of the Commission as a separate entity in Connecticut's state government.

The Commission on Children is an invaluable resource to the community and provides an important voice representing the interests of children in the state. Its role monitoring legislation, helping to develop significant policy and initiatives, providing information and conducting research regarding children, and holding government accountable is vital to serving the needs of children in Connecticut. Its existence as a separate entity dedicated to this objective is of particular importance, since children may not be in a position to retain private lobbyists or others to speak on their behalf, and they may otherwise have no presence or participation in the state's lawmaking process.

In ADL's efforts to fight hate, build hope and safeguard liberty, we work with the Commission on Children on a regular basis. The Commission is a key partner and ally for ADL in our work providing anti-bias and diversity education programming to tens of thousands of children in Connecticut each year, including 18,000 last year alone, providing assistance, insight, and guidance in this vital area. Partners like the Commission on Children are essential to ADL's pursuit of justice and fair treatment for all in Connecticut, and to the well-being of children throughout the state.

We urge you to reject the portions of HB 5018 and the Governor's plan that eliminate the Commission on Children, and to maintain its important presence as a separate entity in Connecticut's state government.